

FRENCH INDQ-CHINA

Council, and the registration of all contracts between the king and Europeans, What might have been an effective opening wedge remained a dead letter until the establishment of the civil government *m* Cochin-China.

The reorganization effected by Le Myre de Vilers and his successors was the first application in Cambodia of the Protectorate's hitherto purely theoretical powers of thirteen years' standing. French judicial control was increased at the expense of the Cambodian courts; measures were taken to suppress brigandage; fifty-seven provinces were compressed into eight, each headed by a French resident; Khmer functionaries* salaries were increased with the vain hope that this might cure their congenital venality.

Feeling that Le Myre had only made a beginning, Governor Thomson of Cochin-China chose an unfortunately violent way of dictating *t* new treaty. In the night of June 17th, he forced his way into the palace* awoke the sleeping king, and wrung from him a consent to important reforms which gave France control over the internal affairs of the country. This clumsily forced a delicate issue just at a time when Thomson was having his troubles with Annam. The heart of the difficulty, as always, was financial. King and people alike resented the French assessment and collection of tazes as derogatory to Norodom's sovereignty. The populace had already been upset by minor regulation their liberties, by the imposition of new taxes, and by giving priority to Annainites in the country. The movement, led by Prince Sivotha, in January 1885 by an attack on the newly installed *die* lasted, for eighteen months, inflicting serious losses & die in both men and prestige. The territory over

which their
was a the size of France. The country was
largely
at die time, were almost non-existent, as also
were
daring the rainy season and through
Lack of rater, food* and all kinds of supplies made
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of heavy. Moreover, the Cambodian
revolt stirred
up « in CbcuiiirOufUL The military
campaign was
by compromises on the part d
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m 1897, it TO* at the request Of Norodom
himself, wk
measures proposed or
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